

Message Text

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ROME: PASS SENATOR BAKER

DEPT: PASS TO PAT HOLT, SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS

COMMITTEE

1. BEGIN QUOTE: INTERVIEW WITH KING KHALID OF SAUDI ARABIA,
DHAHRAN, MAY 25, 1975--BY SENATOR HOWARD BAKER.

2. IN THE COURSE OF OUR INTERVIEW KING KHALID GAVE EVERY
INDICATION OF BEING WELL-INFORMED AND WELL-BRIEFED, WITH
STRONG AND BETTER-FORMED VIEWS THAN I HAD BEEN LED TO EXPECT.
HE WAS ESPECIALLY FORCEFUL AS TO THE NEED TO SETTLE THE
ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT, AND I VOLUNTEERED TO PASS HIS VIEWS
ON TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. (ALSO PRESENT AT THIS
INTERVIEW W WAS PRINCE ABDULLAH, SECOND DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER AND COMMANDER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD).

3. "THE SOLUTION TO THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT," SAID KING
KHALID, "IS VERY SIMPLE." WE ASK ONLY THAT THE ARABS MAY
RETURN TO THEIR HOMES AND ISRAEL RETURN TO ITS BORDER OF
1967. "THE ARABS"--HE SAID THROUGH HIS INTERPRETER--"HAVE
LEARNED TO BE MODERATE, REASONABLE. GONE ARE THE DAYS OF
NASSER'S PERIOD WHEN THE ARABS THREATENED TO EXTERMINATE
THE ISRAELIS."

4. HAVE THE PALESTINIANS BECOME SUFFICIENTLY MODERATE TO
MAKE PEACE? I ASKED.

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5. HIS MAJESTY REPLIED THAT THE PALESTINIANS HAD INDEED BECOME

REASONABLE AND REALISTIC. AND IF THEY WERE NOT IN THE PAST, HE ADDED, "THEY HAD ALL THE REASON IN THE WORLD," PROVIDED FIRST BY THE BRITISH, THEN BY THE ISRAELIS, BUT IN FACT, HE STRESSED AGAIN, THEY HAVE BECOME REASONABLE AND REALISTIC.

6. THIS KING SHOWED A STRONG DISLIKE OF THE BRITISH. THEY HAD CAUSED TROUBLE HERE--AND "WHERE EVER THEY WENT," HEADED--WITH THEIR POLICY OF DIVIDE AND RULE, AND THEY HAD LEFT LEGACIES OF DIVISION AND HOSTILITY EVEN AFTER THEY LEFT.

7. I ASKED HIS MAJESTY IF HE THOUGHT YASSER ARAFAT WAS THE PALESTINIAN LEADER WITH WHOM THE WORLD SHOULD DEAL.

8. "THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT," HE REPLIED. "THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT YASSER ARAFAT AND THE PLO ARE THE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE." THE KING THOUGHT THAT SOME OTHER PALESTINIAN FRINGE GROUPS MIGHT BE CONTROLLED BY FOREIGNERS WHO "PAY THEM" TO CREATE DISTURBANCES, BUT ARAFAT, HE STRESSED, IS BOTH MODERATE AND INDEPENDENT AND IS INDEED THE ONLY PALESTINIAN LEADER WITH WHOM OTHER NATIONS CAN AND SHOULD DEAL.

9. I COMMENTED THAT I HAD VISITED THE ARAMCO FACILITIES, AND THE CONVERSATION TURNED TO SAUDI DEVELOPMENT PLANS. I ASKED IF SAUDI ARABIA HAD SUFFICIENT MANPOWER FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT PLANS.

10. KING KHALID STRESSED THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAS A LARGE NUMBER OF ITS OWN NATIONALS WHO ARE WELL-TRAINED UNIVERSITY GRADUATES, MANY FROM THE COLLEGE OF PETROLEUM AND MINES IN DHAHRAN, OTHERS FROM THE OTHER SAUDI UNIVERSITIES IN RIYADH AND JIDDA. BEYOND THAT THE KINGDOM READILY WELCOMES AMERICANS, EUROPEANS, AND OTHER ARABS TO HELP WITH DEVELOPMENT PLANS. HE ALSO CITED LARGE NUMBER OF YEMENIS WHO HE SAID MAKE UP THE BULK OF THE SAUDI LABOR FORCE. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT AN OIL PIPELINE WAS BEING BUILT FROM THE PERSIAN GULF TO JIDDA AND THAT IT WOULD BE LONGER THAN THE TAPLINE. HE SAID ALL THIS WITH EMPHASIS, STRESSING THE ADEQUACY OF SAUDI MANPOWER.

11. KING KHALID ALSO CITED, WITH EMPHASIS AND PRIDE, A RECENTLY ANNOUNCED FIVE-YEAR PLAN, IN THE COURSE OF WHICH THE KINGDOM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD SPEND 498 BILLION RIYALS, OR \$140 BILLION, BY CONTRAST WITH THE PREVIOUS FIVE-YEAR PLAN IN THE COURSE OF WHICH, HE SAID, 40 BILLION RIYALS HAD BEEN SPENT. THIS, HE SAID SHOWS THE EXTENT OF SAUDI AMBITION TO DEVELOP THEIR COUNTRY.

12. SUMMING UP THE ECONOMIC FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, KING KHALID SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO ITS OIL INDUSTRY, AND OTHER MINERALS THE KINGDOM WAS ENCOURAGING DRY-LANDS AGRICULTURE ON

A LARGE SCALE WITH GENEROUS INCENTIVE SUBSIDIES. THE KINGDOM, HE SAID, WAS PROVIDING FREE EDUCATION UP TO THE POST-GRADUATE LEVEL, EVEN PAYING MONTHLY SALARIES-MANY OF WHOM ARE IN THE US--TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO REMAIN IN SCHOOL. SAUDI ARABIA, HE STRESSED, WAS BENEFITTING ALL ITS PEOPLE AS THE KINGDOM GREW RICHER AND WAS ALSO EXTENDING BENEFITS TO FOREIGNERS THROUGH SUCH MEANS AS IMPORT SUBSIDIES. "WE HAVE NOT NEGLECTED OUR PEOPLE BY ANY MEANS."

13. TURNING ONCE AGAIN TO THE ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM, KING KHALID SAID HE SAW THE TIME AS OPPORTUNE--"PERHAPS THE BEST AND THE LAST"--FOR THE UNITED STATES TO RESOLVE THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. PRESIDENT SADAT, SAID THE KING, WAS COMMISSIONED TO SPEAK FOR ALL THE ARABS INCLUDING SAUDI ARABIA. HE URGED THE UNITED STATES TO DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER--"AND YOU HAVE THE POWER"--TO "REACH A SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT, NOW." IF THAT WERE NOT DONE, HE FEARED THAT THE FRIENDSHIP OF THE ARABS FOR THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE LOST, AND LOST IRRETRIEVABLY. THIS, HE SAID, MEANT NOT ONLY MUSLIM ARABS BUT OTHER MUSLIMS AS WELL AND ALSO THE CHRISTIAN ARABS. "THEIR GRIEVANCES ARE INDIVISIBLE."

14. KING KHALID SAID THAT HE WANTS MORE AMERICANS TO COME TO SAUDI ARABIA, TO STAY LONGER AND GET ACQUAINTED. HE URGED ME NOT TO GO BACK TO "THE BUSTLE OF NEW YORK, WHERE YOU WILL FORGET US." END QUOTE.
AKINS

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